

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02769 201243Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 SSM-03 /064 W  
-----201253Z 025042 /53

P R 201152Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5803  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 2769

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: IS, JO, PDEV, PFOR  
SUBJECT: MES'HA STARTED: ISRAELIS "TIGHT-LIPPED"

REF: TEL AVIV 2724

1. THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SETTLEMENTS, SITTING  
IN PLENARY SESSION, APPROVED THE INFORMAL DECISIONS  
TAKEN APRIL 17 BY FIVE MINISTERS (REFTEL) ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENT  
AT MES'HA (ON THE WEST BANK, SEVERAL MILES EAST OF KFAR  
QASIM). A GROUP OF NAHAL SETTLERS MOVED INTO AN ABANDONED  
POLICE STATION AT MES'HA AND ESTABLISHED THE SETTLEMENT  
ON APRIL 19.

2. APPROACHING A NUMBER OF VARIOUS ISRAELI OFFICIAL  
SOURCES ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT AT MES'HA, AN EMBOFF HAS  
BEN SINGULARLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN ELICITING ANY INFORMATION.  
FOLLOWING ARE REPLIES RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO PHONE INQUIRIES.

---THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE SETTLEMENTS DEPARTMENT OF  
THE JEWISH AGENCY/WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION WAS  
SAID TO BE UNAVAILABLE "DUE TO RESERVE ARMY DUTY."  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02769 201243Z

HIS SECRETARY REFERRED US TO--

---THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE JA/WZO SETTLEMENTS DEPARTMENT,  
WHO SAID THAT THE JA/WZO DEALS ONLY WITH  
"RURAL" SETTLEMENTS, NOT WITH "URBAN" SETTLEMENTS  
(AS MES'HA IS TO BE). HE REFERRED US TO MINISTER  
GALILI (CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON

SETTLEMENTS) OR TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING'S DIRECTOR OF RURAL BUILDINGS AND NEW SETTLEMENTS ADMINISTRATION.

---MINISTER GALILI'S SECRETARY REFERRED US WITHOUT ELABORATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, WHO REGRETTED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION AND DID NOT ANTICIPATE RECEIVING ANY.

---THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING'S DIRECTOR OF RBNSA REFERRED US TO THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING.

--THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING SAID THAT HE COULD DIVULGE NO INFORMATION, AND REFERRED US TO MINISTER GALILI.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE INDIVIDUALS, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, ARE FULLY AWARE OF GOI PLANS IN REGARD TO MES'HA. WHILE ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CAREFUL IN DISCUSSING SETTLEMENT ISSUES WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE ENCOUNTERED UNUSUALLY BAD LUCK THIS TIME. WHAT IS MORE AGGRAVATING IS THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTERS APPARENTLY HAVE MUCH LESS DIFFICULTY IN GETTING A STRAIGHT ANSWER TO THE SAME QUESTIONS.  
DUNNIGAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAND SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TELAV02769  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770137-0156  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770436/aaaabfae.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** e501b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TEL AVIV 2724  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2743953  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MES\HA STARTED: ISRAELIS \TIGHT-LIPPED\  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PFOR, IS, JO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e501b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009